

Appl. No.: 10/710,320
Amdt. Dated: 7/19/2005
Reply to Office action of: 05/13/2005

AMENDMENTSTOTHEDRAWINGS:

There are no amendments to the drawings presented herewith.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New Claims 3 and 4 have been added to this case replacing original Claims 1 and 2 which are hereby canceled. New Claims 3 and 4 contain the subject matter claimed in original Claims 1 and 2 presented in a more proper form.

No new subject matter has been introduced.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 1 for the following informalities:

The claim recites "an electric distribution box" in the preamble and then states "said electric distribution box" in the claim body and it is unclear whether the electric distribution box is intended to be a positive limitation of the claim or if it is merely a suggested environment for use.

Also, it is not clear whether "support" is intended to be a positive limitation of the claim or merely an environment for use of the holding bracket.

Appropriate correction and clarification is required.

Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. By providing new Claim 3 which is original Claim 1 more properly drafted and presented herewith these informalities have been corrected and as such Applicant requests the objection be removed.

Claims 1 – 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states:

The claims generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

This example list below is not intended to be exhaustive all errors should be corrected.

Examples"

Claim 1: "which is materialized in metal sheet"

Claim 1: "in addition to being duly configured for its adaptation and fixing"

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the intermediate catches" in line 11. there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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Claim 2 recites the limitation "Z axis direction" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the Y/Z axes" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

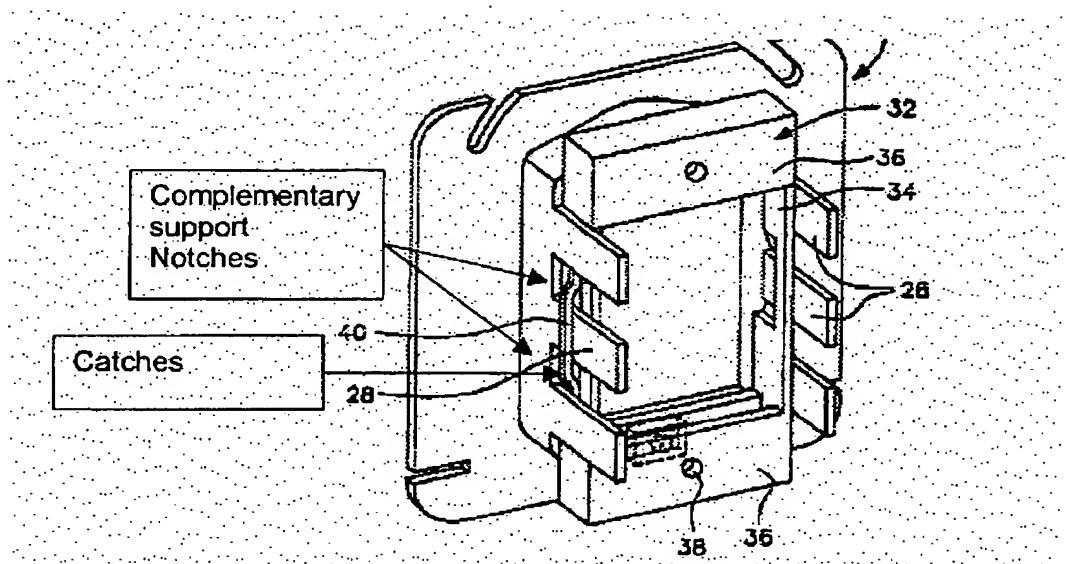
Claim 1 recites, "which is materialized in a metal sheet" and it is unclear as to which element the metal sheet is in reference to, "the support", "the extension" or "the electrical distribution box".

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Newly presented Claims 3 and 4 which are original Claims 1 and 2 redrafted in more proper US practice form clearly describe what applicant claims as his invention. When viewed in this light the claims do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6576837 to Pimentel. Specifically, the Examiner states:

Pimentel discloses applicant's basic inventive concept including a electrical distribution box (Switch, See Col. 3, line 55) having a duly oriented extension (32) in correspondence with the location of a sheet metal support (30, See Col. 3 line 3 for material), the extension (30) having a free end arranged with two end catches (40) in a U-shaped configuration (the catches are U-shaped) and two other catches (fastener that go in aperture 38) which are coplanar to each other and perpendicular to the other two catches (40), the support having complementary intermediate notches (See Drawing Below) to correspond to the end catches (40), the support also having two end tabs (28) on the free complementary edge for being internally adapted to the end catches (40), wherein the one pair of catches immobilize the box in the Z-axis direction and the other pair of catches immobilize it on the Y/Z axes.

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Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The key to Applicants' invention is an automotive electrical distribution box which has an integral mounting support which allows for the detachable but stable mounting of said electrical distribution box to a sheet metal mounting support bracket. The lid or cover of applicant's automotive electrical distribution box is not used to mount or support the box.

A fair reading of Pimentel (as illustrated above) discloses an electrical distribution box for use in the interior space of a building wall. The electrical box is mounted to a stud by means of attachment means such as nails or screws. It does not teach a sheet metal support bracket for mounting the box to the wall or stud. It does not teach a box support terminating in catches suitable for mounting in complimentary catches. The box lid is taught as having an opening for receiving an electrical switch or outlet or both. The lid is taught as being mounted to the box by means of a pair of screws and the switch and/or outlet is also mounted to the lid by means of screws. The opening in the lid is taught as having a plurality of tabs which can be bent against the wall face to support the lid to the wall. These tabs may or may not be associated with a drywall collar. In another embodiment where the electrical box is used in a very thick wall panel configuration a spacer may be used by mounting on at least two of said tabs by means of slots (catches) such that when the switch and/or outlet is mounted its face is substantially flush with the

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outer surface of said thick wall panel. This reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest how to mount an electrical box body to a support bracket which is in turn fixed mounted to a structure. The use of a spacer mounted on tabs by means of slots in the spacer sidewalls does not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of pairs of catches which are used to mount the electrical box and prevent movement in all three axes.

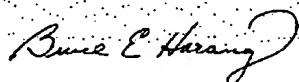
Applicant's claimed invention does not require that the plurality of tabs be made of metal or that they be bent to fix the lid to the box or the box to the support. Applicant's claimed invention does not require that the box and box lid both be fixedly mounted to a support structure, nor that the fixed mounting of the box lid support the whole electrical distribution box assembly. Instead applicant's claimed invention provides an electrical distribution box which allows for the mounting of the box and lid assembly to a support bracket without the need for screws, nails, and the like and without the critical necessity of bending the catches against a support surface.

Clearly, when viewed in this light the Pimentel reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the electronically controlled electrical arc protection of Applicants' present invention.

Applicants acknowledge the prior art made of record as pertinent, but not relied upon as a basis of rejection by the Examiner. Applicants make no further comment regarding this prior art.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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